

Outcomes of the Consultation process with Youth Leaders from Timor-Leste, Papua-New Guinea and Pacific Island States

Official Launch of the EU-Pacific Green-Blue Alliance

Main outcomes:

Some statements were strongly expressed by young people from the Pacific sovereign island States, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, along the consultation process, in particular:

- The necessity for **raising awareness on Climate Change Adaptation and on the EU-Pacific Green-Blue Alliance;**
- The importance of considering, in any consultation process, **hierarchical, traditional and cultural factors of the relation dynamics** among and between community groups;
- The prerequisite imperative (as already highlighted at the Euro-Indo-Pacific High-Level Conference on Climate Change) of **recognising the geographical and economic peculiarities of the small Pacific island States;**
- The adoption of mechanisms for **regular consultation with Youth in the definition, implementation and monitoring of programmes, projects and actions** that will result from the Green-Blue Alliance;
- The development of **consultative and iterative participatory approaches**, relying not only on regional Youth networks, but also favouring the mobilisation of local groups within the communities, thus favouring the **sharing and capitalisation of traditional knowledge** between generations and the **recognition of the Pacific culture and inheritance;**
- Support for **human capacity building in training, research and scientific expertise**, including student and teacher mobility, access and production of knowledge.
- **Importance of active youth to be in discussions with governments.**

‘The implementation of the Green-Blue Alliance will combine regional, multi-country and national approaches, while emphasising ownership at national level and ensuring capacity building in the countries of the region.’

○ **How can we support and increase youth participation in the implementation of the Green Blue Alliance?**

- Support to the priority 1, where a particular balance of mitigation and adaptation efforts and funds has to be created. Emphasizing the need to learn from successful projects already implemented in the region and sharing best practices.
- Ensuring that this is a structured and continuous process. Important to create the enabling environment for young people to participate and ensure that programming has youth participation option integrated.

- Working on participatory approach. Ensuring that youth is not only group to be consulted, but becomes a pillar of consultations.
- Ensuring youth participation in all projects from the earliest stage. Resilience is about capacity building and it is important to include youth in every step of the way, including in the design phase.
- At community level, especially at the rural areas, youth participation is very limited due to the low awareness on climate change issues. To support and increase youth participation of the Green-Blue Alliance, we should apply the same approach from Plan International program called Girls Alliance (GA).
- Engaging active young generations, especially young women and girls from schools of Aileu and Ainaro municipalities, by providing leadership training to enhance their capacity building, develop advocacy strategies addressing the climate change issues.
- In the pacific region, culturally, young people are often not given a space at the table until initiation, and it seems as though in today's day and age that process has been prolonged in a sense where young people are not given that space at all.
- In order to have more youth in the implementation of the blue green alliance, more community based outreach should be done in a sense where networking is done in the local communities. One point raised in the Green Blue alliance was creating jobs, and unfortunately in the region, a bulk of the youth remain without jobs because qualifications are unrealistic.
- Active youth to be in discussions with the government. Youth is often left out of these vital conversations considering they will be inheriting this future. This is to create a sense of awareness, and many times the youth utilize social media to talk about these discussions to sort of create a sense of transparency as to what is going on with these partnerships and it gives people that information that they might need.
- Use social mechanisms such as sports, eco-tourism, agriculture, aquaculture and of course art, music and textile design to name a few. This can not only be done with the youth but also with children in local communities so then the youth of that community can assist in facilitating these programs.

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- **What are existing structures and modalities where youth representation can support these measures of environmental benefits and resilience building?**
- Some of the existing youth working groups and platforms are already well established and functional. These existing groups and networks could be further used for future

consultations by expanding their profile and allowing exchange of knowledge and information between them

- Importance of the traditional knowledge with the existing structure currently present. This traditional knowledge is often very close to the scientific knowledge and represents a valuable source of information. It is important to use youth groups that are already active in local communities to collect this traditional knowledge and to share it further
- Youth networks are promoting different development issues, including climate change issues which are used as the platform to promote youth participation in environmental benefits and resilience building.
- If we are talking about government structures and modalities that include youth, to date we do not have any in PNG. Considering that the only time youth are involved is when we need manpower to plant trees or a cleanathon.
- However, within the local communities and through activist and advocates efforts, we do have activities or projects that help in supporting the environmental benefits and resilience building. Most of the time we have EU funded initiatives or through grants provided by UN agencies or help from other NGOs abroad creates a space for youth inclusion.
- Normally you can see local communities appreciating these small projects more as they are involved in the implementation. Whereas our government offices normally would not do ground awareness or explain modalities and or structures that are important for resilience building.
- PNG government great at policy-making but lack of capacity building which impacts young people who have the potential to do great things but are left out.

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- **What are existing structures and modalities where youth representation can support these measures of environmental benefits and resilience building?**

- Importance of platforms for consultation of the youth so that it can contribute and support initiatives such as the Green Blue Alliance. Highlighting that the Pacific Resilience Partnership Youth Working Group will support the participants of the consultation and develop the key recommendations for the COP26 side event.
- The best practice that we have seen so far is the Champion of Change (CoC) model that Plan has been promoting in Timor-Leste. Champion of Change model is Plan International project which engages and trains young men and boys to overcome gender inequality.
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- Engaging the youth of small, local communities. Communities in the Pacific are very societal and work in tribes, clans and villages and as a result, if we want results we have to engage more locals in our approach.
- Including the churches in the implementation, in the Pacific churches act as great custodians to projects and they also have a peace building aura about them, so they help in bringing the communities together.

Complementary comments received from Pacific Youth Networks

- As long as there is a focal point of the Green-Blue Alliance in Tuvalu, a discussion and awareness program can kick start at the earliest possible convenient time. Communication is a vital tool for any matter because Tuvalu is a very closely knitted Country, perhaps it is the same all over throughout the Pacific region. It would be best to have different awareness programs for different groupings not to have all members of the community all in one sitting. It would not be a successful meeting as not everyone would participate due to norms and traditional hierarchy in every community; where youths and women are not very much represented, women yes but hardly youths. Hence, it would be more effective to have awareness programs with individual groupings of the community. Youths would be more effective and fully represented a much more participatory approach.
- Proper networking with government Youth department and as well as NGOs (Tuvalu NGO, TANGO) to have youths representatives from all youths groupings whether youths grouping from congregations, islands, communities etc depending on the scope of Youth involvement in the project. Both agencies from Government and NGOs, can ensure good coordination of youths participation in supporting measures of environmental benefits and resilience building. Not all youths in Tuvalu have been exposed to every climate change mitigation and adaptation project, introducing Green-Blue Alliance would enhance their understanding and build their knowledge-based capacities.
- The success of youth-focused projects not only in climate change projects but through other sectors as well. It all comes down to reliable communication, as long as implementing agencies of the Green-Blue Alliance focal point in Tuvalu understands the objectives of the program, consider communicating the same objectives to youths and having their involvement in the project a success.